

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

SERIES ON CALIFORNIA CROPS AND PRICES

# APRICOTS

H. R. WELLMAN

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BULLETIN 423

MAY, 1927

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRINTING OFFICE  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA  
1927



# APRICOTS

H. R. WELLMAN<sup>1</sup>

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## SUMMARY

The commercial production of apricots in the United States is practically confined to California. The outstanding developments in the apricot industry in this state during the past two decades have been (1) a comparatively small increase in production, (2) a slight increase in relative purchasing power, and (3) a substantial increase in bearing acreage since 1918.

The average increase in the commercial production of apricots in California during the period from 1909 to 1926 amounted to only 3 per cent a year, which is small as compared with the increase in the production of many of our fruits.

This comparatively small increase in production was not sufficient to cause a decline in relative purchasing power because the demand for apricots increased more than the supply. As a result growers are normally able to buy slightly more of other commodities with the money they receive for a ton of apricots today than they were five, ten, or fifteen years ago. This situation is unusual. Apricot growers have felt the agricultural depression less than most farmers.

The relatively high prices received for apricots as compared with other commodities has been an important cause for the rapid expansion in apricot acreage. Between 1918 and 1926 the bearing acreage of apricots increased 83 per cent. This substantial increase in bearing acreage has not as yet resulted in a corresponding increase in production, because: (1) a relatively large proportion of the trees listed as bearing have not yet reached the age of maximum bearing; and (2) the newer plantings were more generally made in sections less favorable to high production. Unfortunately we have no exact measurement of the influence of each factor. The available evidence, however, indicates that the first factor mentioned has been the most important cause of the failure of production to keep pace with the increase in bearing acreage. Consequently there will probably be a substantial increase in production during the next few years.

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The bulk of the California crop has a three-way outlet: it may be dried, canned, or shipped fresh. The proportion of the crop utilized in these three ways depends largely on the prices offered, and the possibility of increasing or decreasing the supply of each brings the prices of them into close adjustment.

There has been an increase in the output of each of the three kinds of apricots during the past 18 years. The percentage increase in the output of canned apricots, however, has been over seven times as great as that of dried apricots and almost twice as great as that of fresh shipments. The tendency towards an increased utilization of the apricot crop in canning is clearly shown by the fact that the percentage of the commercial crop canned increased from 18 per cent in 1909-1913 to 30 per cent in 1922-1926. On the other hand, the percentage of the commercial crop dried decreased from 80 per cent in 1909-1913 to 67 per cent in 1922-1926. Although the interstate shipments of fresh apricots increased both absolutely and relatively during this period, they are still of minor importance, amounting to only 3 per cent of the crop.

The consumption of fresh apricots in the United States can probably be increased provided an attractive, palatable product is placed on the many small markets. At the present time the bulk of the interstate shipments of fresh apricots is sold in the few large auction markets, primarily because the extreme perishability of fresh apricots makes it necessary to handle them quickly. An increase in the present limited distribution depends chiefly upon future improvements in harvesting, packing, and refrigeration methods. There is no immediate prospect, however, that the markets for fresh apricots can be sufficiently widened to provide an outlet for any substantial increase in production. Even if it were possible to find profitable markets for double the present interstate shipments, they would provide an outlet for only an additional 5,000 tons, or a total of 6 per cent of the present production. Consequently the largest part of the expected increase in production will probably have to be marketed through the canned and dried channels.

The markets for canned apricots in the United States can probably be expanded. During the past twenty years the demand for canned apricots has increased substantially, as is shown by the fact that the purchasing power for canned apricots has increased slightly despite an increase of over 200 per cent in the pack. Furthermore, at the present time the per capita consumption of canned apricots is small, amounting to only 0.55 of a pound in equivalent of the fresh product.

It does not seem likely, however, that the canned market can be expanded sufficiently, at the present level of values, to provide an outlet for the bulk of the probable increase in apricot production. The increasing output of other canned fruits, such as peaches, pineapples, and pears, will increase the present keen competition.

The dried apricot markets, although they take two-thirds of the crop at the present time, have not kept pace with the increase in commercial production. The United States is not a dried-apricot-consuming nation. Although the total per capita production of dried apricots is small, amounting to only one-third of a pound, over one-half is exported. It does not seem likely that consumers in the United States can be induced to eat any greatly increased quantity of dried apricots unless prices are reduced or unless the public taste changes.

The possibility of marketing a much larger quantity of dried apricots in foreign countries is not at present encouraging. Foreign countries are buying as large a quantity of dried apricots from the United States as before the war, but no larger. This constitutes a smaller percentage of the crop. Prior to the war 68 per cent of the dried output was exported as compared to 53 per cent during the past five years.

Three of the four most important foreign markets, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France, are buying a smaller quantity of dried apricots at the present time than before the war. During the five-year period from 1910 to 1914, these three countries received almost 70 per cent of our total exports as compared with less than half of our exports during the past five years. Fortunately this loss has been replaced by increased exports to Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Canada.

Any substantial increase in exports depends largely upon the recovery of European countries from the post-war depression. The present evidence indicates that the purchasing power of European countries is increasing. However, it is doubtful if this increase will be sufficiently rapid within the next few years to provide an outlet for greatly increased exports at the present level of values. Furthermore, the increased demand for our apricots may be in part offset by the increasing competition of apricots from Australia and the Union of South Africa.

*What of the Future?*—Apricot acreage is increasing. Production will be substantially higher when the present acreage comes into full bearing. There is no immediate prospect that this probable increase can be absorbed at the relatively high price level that apricots now

occupy. Consequently growers should expect decreased returns in the future unless they are able to improve the quality of their apricots or produce them at lower costs. Those who can not make these improvements and who have not made satisfactory profits in the past should give careful attention to alternative enterprises. The fortunate monopoly which California enjoys does not warrant any great increase in plantings. If additional acreage is planted, it should be upon land adapted to the crop and in climatic zones favorable to it. Growers on marginal land must compete with others who produce apricots at a relatively low cost. In the future apricot producers are likely to feel the pinch of competition more than they have in the past.

TABLE 1

APRICOTS—NUMBER OF TREES, BEARING AND NON-BEARING, BY STATES, 1920

State	Number of trees			Total acreage		Average number of bearing trees per farm reporting
	Bearing	Non-bearing	Total	Acres*	Per cent	
California.....	3,688,217	1,243,706	4,931,923	61,649	96.1	238.2
Washington.....	47,608	13,000	60,608	756	1.2	55.6
Arizona.....	39,464	4,072	43,536	544	0.9	48.0
Oklahoma.....	20,845	7,745	28,590	357	0.6	12.9
Utah.....	21,830	435	22,265	278	0.4	43.0
Texas.....	7,348	4,024	11,372	142	0.2	5.0
Kansas.....	7,957	1,437	9,394	117	0.2	12.6
Others.....	12,811	9,783	22,594	283	0.4	7.9
Total.....	3,846,080	1,284,202	5,130,282	64,126	100.0	

\* Trees converted to acres on basis of 80 trees per acre.

Sources of data: Fourteenth Census of the United States, vol. 5, p. 868. 1920.

### THE GENERAL SITUATION<sup>2</sup>

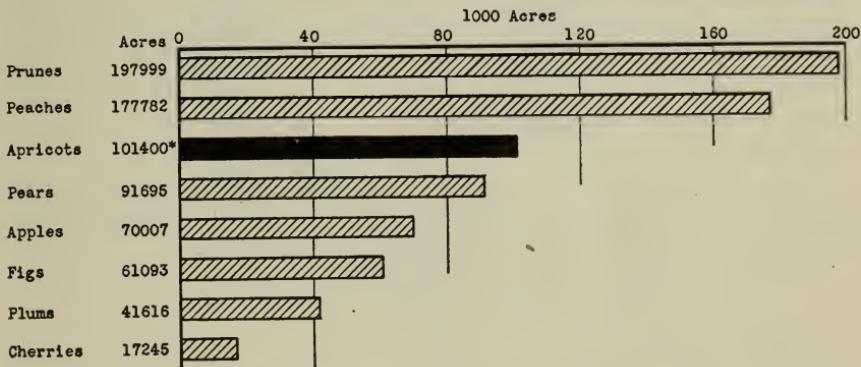
*California's Place in the Apricot Industry.*—Almost all of the United States acreage of apricots is in California. The apricot acreage in the United States in 1920<sup>3</sup> amounted to approximately 64,000 acres, of which 96 per cent was in California (table 1). The remain-

<sup>2</sup> Acknowledgment: The author of this circular wishes to express his thanks and indebtedness to the following organizations which have generously contributed from their data and their time: The California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture; Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, United States Department of Commerce; Division of Agricultural Economics, University of California; California Prune and Apricot Growers Association; California Fruit Exchange; California Cooperative Canneries; California Packing Corporation; Libby, McNeill, and Libby; Rosenberg Bros. and Co., Guggenheim and Co., and H. C. Rowley, California Fruit News.

<sup>3</sup> Apricots are not reported in the 1925 U. S. Census of Agriculture.

ing 4 per cent of the acreage was widely distributed. The 1920 Census reports apricot trees in 33 states other than California. Only 6 of these 33 states, Washington, Arizona, Oklahoma, Utah, Texas, and Kansas, had more than 100 acres each. The other 27 states had a combined acreage of only 283 acres. A comparison between the total acreage per state and the average number of bearing trees per farm (table 1) indicates that of the 33 states other than California, only 3, Washington, Arizona, and Utah, are of any commercial importance in the production of apricots. In the other states, the small acreage together with the small number of bearing trees per farm indicates that this crop is grown almost entirely for home or local-market consumption.

ACREAGE OF EIGHT DECIDUOUS-TREE FRUITS, CALIFORNIA, 1926 (BEARING AND NON-BEARING, 1925 PLANTINGS INCLUDED)



\* Revised figure.

Fig. 1.—Apricots rank third in total acreage among the important competing deciduous-tree fruits in California.

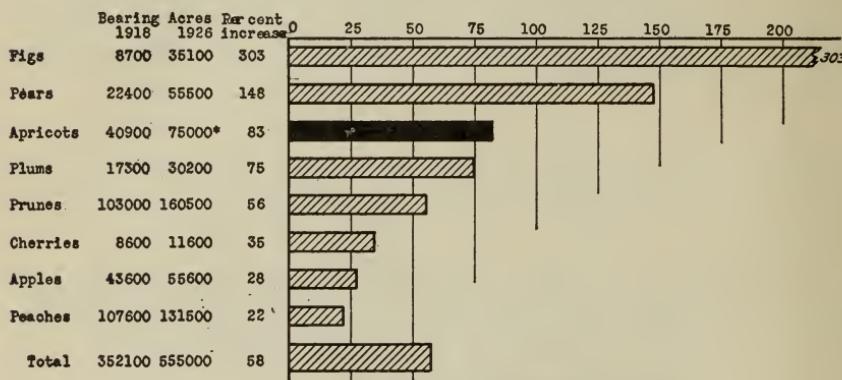
Data from California Crop Report, 1925, p. 31.

*Importance of Apricots in California.*—The total acreage devoted to apricot production in California in 1926 amounted to 101,400 acres. Of the deciduous-tree fruits that compete more or less directly with apricots—only two—prunes and peaches—had a larger acreage, while five—pears, apples, figs, plums, and cherries—had a smaller acreage (fig. 1).

Between 1918 and 1926 the bearing acreage of apricots increased 83 per cent. During this period only two of the eight important deciduous-tree fruits—figs and pears—experienced a greater per cent-

age increase in bearing acreage than apricots, while five of them—plums, prunes, cherries, apples, and peaches<sup>4</sup>—show a smaller percentage increase (fig. 2). The total bearing acreage of these eight fruits increased from 352,000 acres in 1918 to 555,000 acres in 1926, an increase of 203,000 acres, or 58 per cent.

RELATIVE INCREASE IN BEARING ACREAGE OF EIGHT DECIDUOUS-TREE FRUITS IN CALIFORNIA FROM 1918 TO 1926



\* Revised figure.

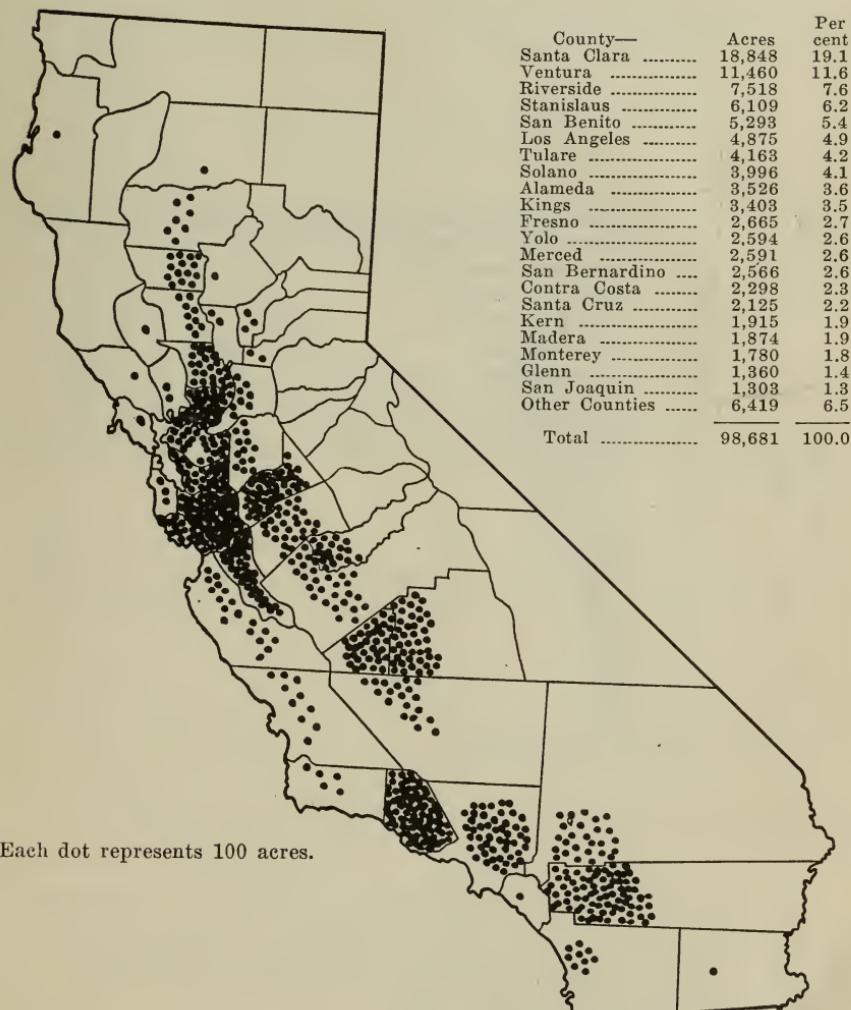
Fig. 2.—Of the important deciduous-tree fruits in California, two have experienced a greater, and five have experienced a smaller, percentage increase in bearing acreage during the past eight years than apricots.

Data from California Crop Report, 1925, p. 32.

*Distribution of Apricot Acreage in California.*—The distribution of the total apricot acreage in California in 1927, exclusive of 1926 plantings, is shown in figure 3. Although apricots are grown in 47 of the 58 counties in the state, the large producing areas are confined to comparatively few counties. One-half of the total acreage in 1927 was in the five counties of Santa Clara, Ventura, Riverside, Stanislaus, and San Benito, while Santa Clara County alone had 19 per cent of the total. The combined acreage in the twenty-one counties listed in figure 3 amounted to 92,262 acres, or 93.5 per cent of the total. The acreage in each of the other twenty-six counties was relatively small. Only five of the twenty-six counties contained more than 500 acres each, while fourteen of them contained less than 100 acres each.

<sup>4</sup> The bearing acreage of peaches declined during the first part of this period, reaching the low point of 101,000 acres in 1921; since 1921 it has increased rapidly.

## APRICOT ACREAGE, CALIFORNIA, 1927 (BEARING AND NON-BEARING)



Data compiled from table 10.

Fig. 3.—Although apricots are grown in forty-seven of the fifty-eight counties in the state, the large producing areas are confined to a comparatively few counties.

Of the 98,681 acres of apricots in California in 1927, exclusive of 1926 plantings, 80,724 were in bearing and 17,957 were not in bearing. The relative distribution of the 80,724 bearing acres is shown in figure 4. Santa Clara is the leading apricot producing county at the present time, followed by Ventura, Riverside, Stanislaus, and San Benito in the order named. Over one-half of the total bearing acreage in the state in 1927 was in these five counties.

PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA'S BEARING APRICOT ACREAGE IN MAIN APRICOT-PRODUCING COUNTIES, 1927

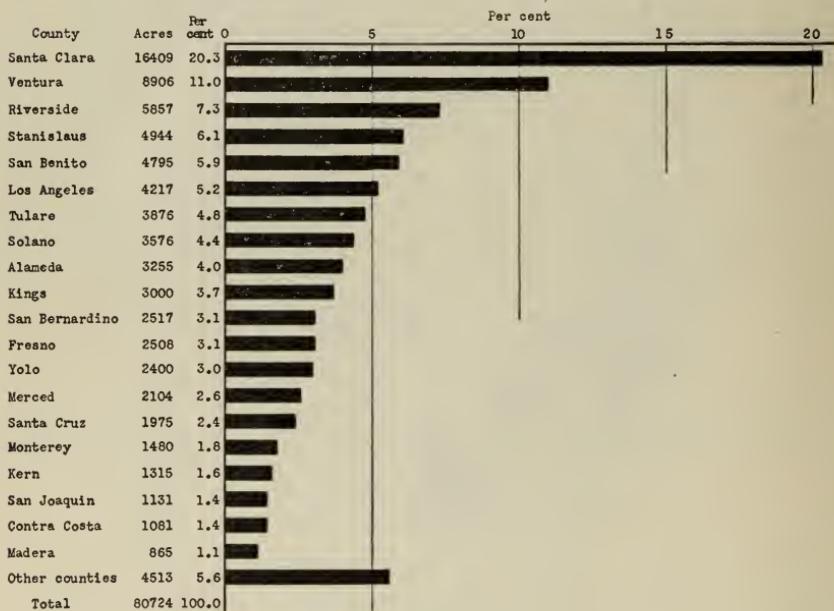


Fig. 4.—Over one-half of California's bearing apricot acreage is in five counties.

Data from table 10.

By grouping the counties by districts<sup>5</sup> we find that approximately 37 per cent of the bearing acreage is in the coast district, 28 per cent in southern California, 24 per cent in the San Joaquin Valley, and 10 per cent in the Sacramento Valley.

The bearing acreage of apricots in California increased from 58,369 acres in 1921 to 80,724 acres in 1927, an increase of 22,355 acres, or 38.3 per cent. In analyzing this increase, it is desirable to know how many acres have come in or gone out of bearing in each of the important apricot-producing counties and the relative rapidity of the changes.

<sup>5</sup> The counties included in the various districts are given in table 10.

ABSOLUTE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN BEARING ACREAGE OF APRICOTS IN MAIN  
APRICOT-PRODUCING COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA FROM 1921 TO 1927

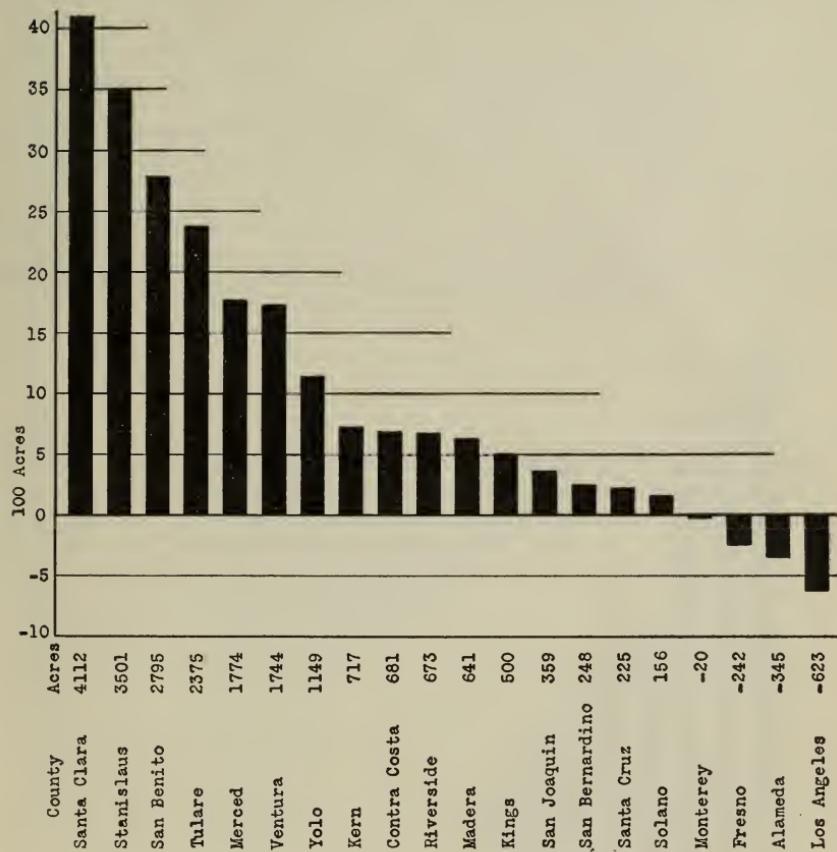


Fig. 5.—Almost one-half of the total increase in bearing acreage since 1921 has occurred in the three counties of Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and San Benito.

Data from table 10.

Figure 5 shows the absolute changes in the bearing acreage in the twenty most important apricot-producing counties. Four (Monterey, Fresno, Alameda, and Los Angeles) of these twenty counties had a smaller bearing acreage in 1927 than in 1921. Each of the other sixteen counties has experienced an increase. The increases in Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and San Benito counties were particularly large. Approximately 47 per cent of the total increase in the state occurred in these three counties.

Each of the four main districts in the state had a larger bearing acreage in 1927 than in 1921. Of the total increase in the state of 22,355 bearing acres, 43 per cent occurred in the San Joaquin Valley, 35 per cent in the coast district, 11 per cent in the Sacramento Valley, and 10 per cent in southern California. As compared to the total bearing acreage in the state, the coast district and the Sacramento Valley had approximately the same proportion in 1927 as in 1921, the San Joaquin Valley had 7 per cent more, and southern California 7 per cent less.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE BEARING ACREAGE OF APRICOTS IN THE MAIN APRICOT-PRODUCING COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA FROM 1921 TO 1927

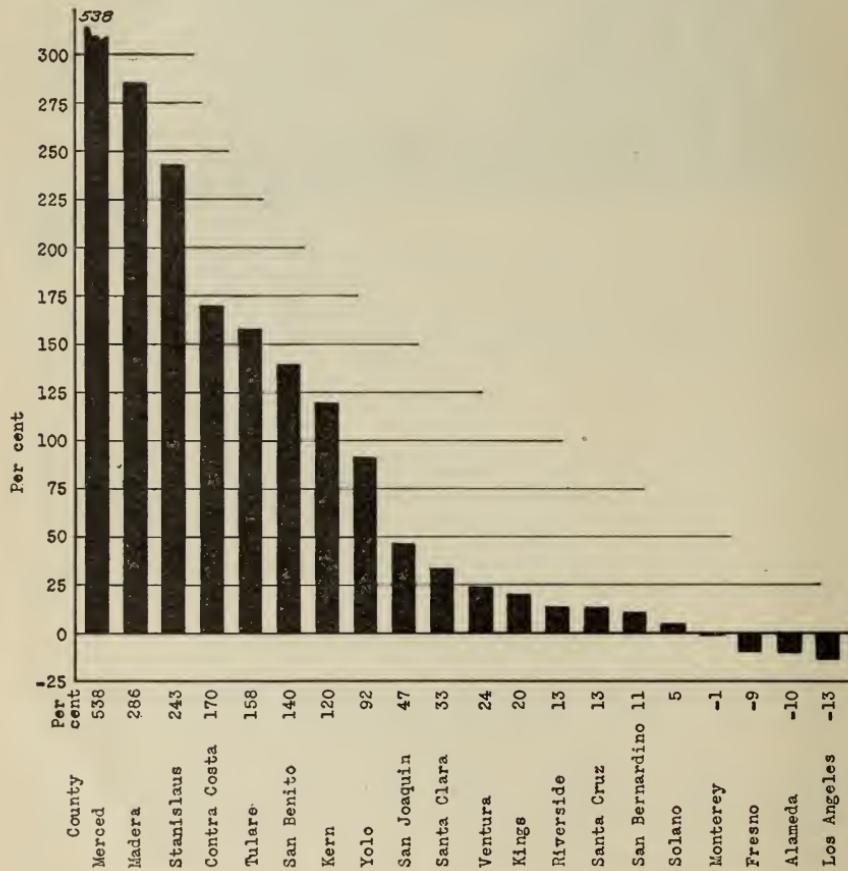


Fig. 6.—The three counties of Merced, Madera, and Stanislaus, located in the San Joaquin Valley, have experienced the greatest percentage increase in bearing acreage of apricots since 1921.

Data from table 10.

The relative changes in bearing acreage by counties are shown in figure 6. Merced County has experienced the largest percentage increase during the past six years; Madera, Stanislaus, Contra Costa, Tulare, San Benito, and Kern follow in the order named. The bearing acreage in each of these seven counties has more than doubled since 1921. Nine of the other thirteen counties listed in figure 6 have also experienced an increase in bearing acreage, the increase ranging from 5 per cent in Solano County to 92 per cent in Yolo County.

The percentage increases in bearing acreage since 1921 in the principal apricot-producing districts are as follows: San Joaquin Valley, 95 per cent; Sacramento Valley, 45 per cent; coast district, 35 per cent; and southern California, 11 per cent.

PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA'S NON-BEARING APRICOT ACREAGE IN MAIN APRICOT-PRODUCING COUNTIES, 1927

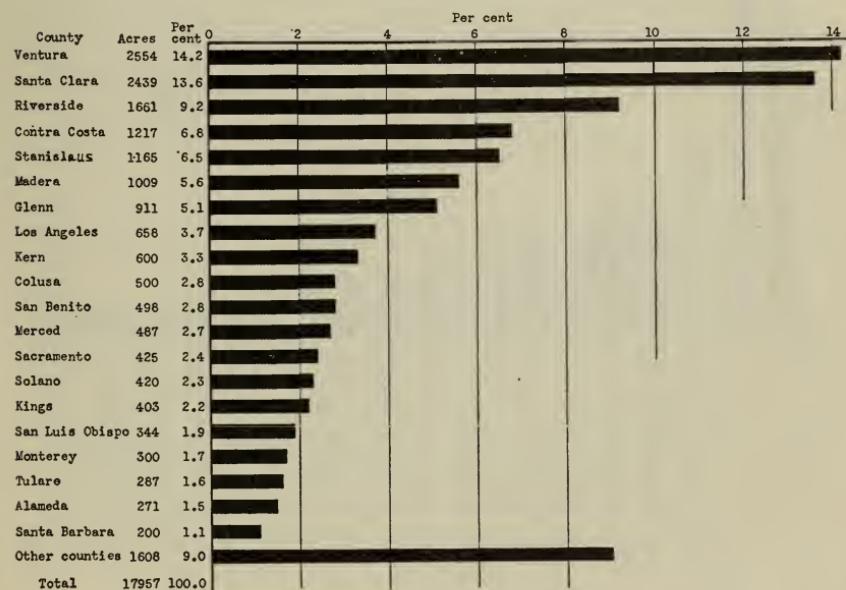


Fig. 7.—During recent years large plantings of apricots have been made in Ventura, Santa Clara, and Riverside counties.

Data from table 10.

Figure 7, which gives the non-bearing acreage by counties in 1927, shows the location of recent plantings of apricots. A comparison of this figure with figure 4, page 10, shows that recent plantings have generally been made in counties which already contained a large acreage of apricots. Some important exceptions, however, should be

noted. Contra Costa County is fourth in non-bearing acreage but nineteenth in bearing acreage. On the other hand, Alameda County is ninth in bearing acreage, but nineteenth in non-bearing acreage. Glenn, Colusa, and Sacramento counties, located in the Sacramento Valley, are sixth, ninth, and twelfth, respectively, in non-bearing acreage, but are not even listed in the twenty most important counties in bearing acreage.

RATIO OF NON-BEARING TO BEARING APRICOT ACREAGE, MAIN APRICOT-PRODUCING COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, 1927

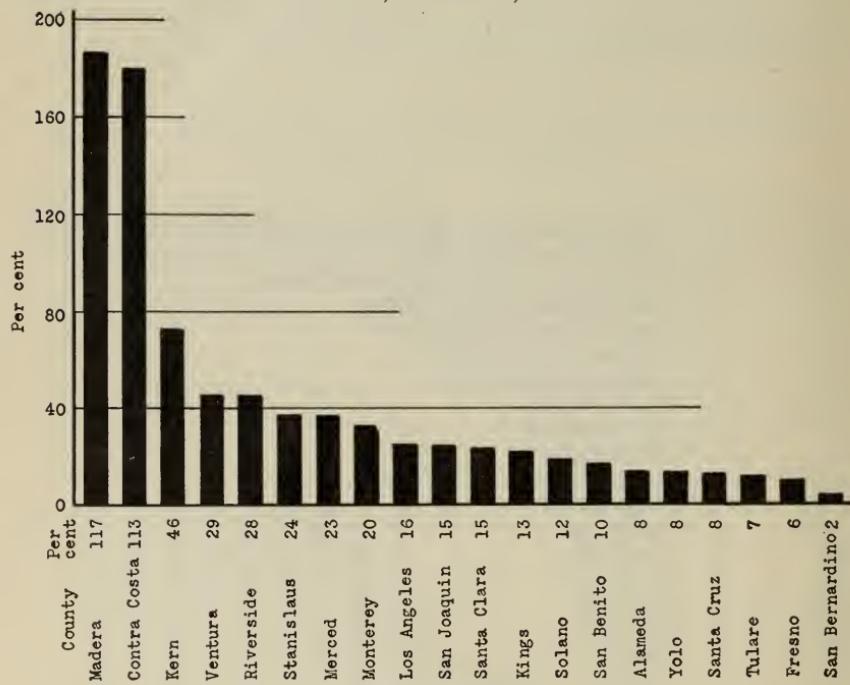


Fig. 8.—The percentage increase in bearing acreage during the next few years is likely to be greatest in the counties in which the ratio of non-bearing to bearing acreage is high.

Data from table 10.

Approximately 31 per cent of the non-bearing acreage is in the coast district, 29 per cent in southern California, 24 per cent in the San Joaquin Valley, and 16 per cent in the Sacramento Valley. Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley each contain about the same percentage of the total non-bearing acreage as they do of the total bearing acreage, but the coast district contains 6 per cent less, and the Sacramento Valley 6 per cent more, of the total non-bearing acreage than of the total bearing acreage.

Figure 6, page 12, shows the relative changes which have taken place in the bearing acreage in the 20 most important apricot-producing counties during the past 5 years. Figure 8, which gives the number of non-bearing acres for each 100 bearing acres, furnishes some indication of the probable relative changes in these twenty counties during the next few years. It seems likely that the percentage increase in bearing acreage will be greatest in such counties as Madera, Contra Costa, and Kern, in which the ratio of non-bearing to bearing acreage is high, and that the percentage increase will be small, or that there may even be a decrease in those counties in which this ratio is low.

BEARING ACREAGE OF APRICOTS IN CALIFORNIA, 1914-1927, AND FORECAST OF BEARING ACREAGE, 1928-1930

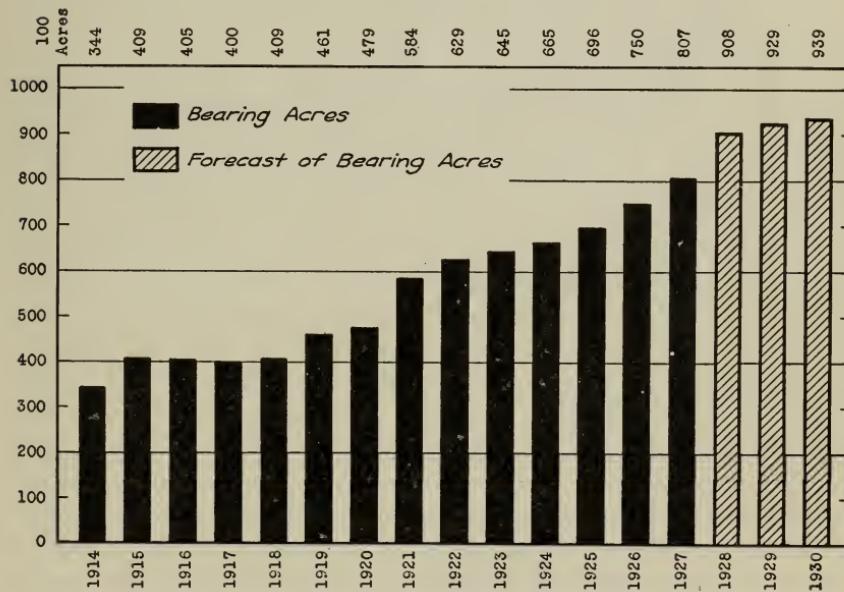


Fig. 9.—The bearing acreage of apricots in California is increasing rapidly.

Data from California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.

The ratio of non-bearing to bearing acreage by districts is as follows: Sacramento Valley, 36; southern California, 23; San Joaquin Valley, 22; and the coast district, 18. These ratios indicate that the greatest percentage increase in bearing acreage during the next few years will be in the Sacramento Valley and the smallest percentage increase in the coast district.

For the state as a whole approximately 15 non-bearing acres are required to maintain a hundred acres in bearing. The ratio of non-bearing to bearing acres in 1927 was 22, which indicates that there will be a substantial increase in bearing acreage during the next few years. The amount of increase in each of the three years of 1928, 1929, and 1930, as estimated by the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, is shown by the shaded bars in figure 9. It is estimated that there will be approximately 93,900 bearing acres of apricots in 1930 or 13,200 acres more than at present.

The absolute changes in the bearing acreage of apricots in the state during the past fourteen years are shown by the solid black bars in figure 9. Between 1915 and 1918 the bearing acreage remained practically stationary at around 40,000 acres. Beginning in 1919 and continuing to the present time bearing acreage has increased steadily. In 1927 there were approximately twice as many acres of apricots in bearing as in 1918.

*Commercial Apricot Production, California.*—The commercial production<sup>6</sup> of apricots in California from 1909 to 1926 is shown by the upper curve in figure 10. The general trend of production during this period has been upward. The normal yearly increase, as based upon the line of trend, amounted to approximately 3000 tons. The percentage increase in apricot production has been somewhat more than that of the United States' population, but much less than the percentage increase in the production of many California fruits. The direction of the trend of production is largely within the control of the growers; a decrease in planting will normally cause it to increase less rapidly or to decline, an increase in planting will normally cause it to increase more rapidly. The fluctuations in production from year to year, however, are much less capable of control, since they are caused, in the main, by variations in climatic conditions. Apricots bloom early and are therefore subject to damage by frost. Particularly dry years, such as occurred in 1924, tend to reduce yields. Heavy rains in the spring and summer favor the development of brown rot at ripening time. It will be noted in figure 10 that the fluctuations in production are relatively large, the average fluctuation for the eighteen-year-period being 21 per cent.

The lower curve in figure 10, representing the bearing acreage of apricots, enables one to compare the changes in the bearing acreage with the changes in apricot production. Between 1910 and 1918 bear-

<sup>6</sup> Commercial production as used in this publication includes only the dried and canned outputs and the fresh interstate shipments. Accurate estimates of the amount of fresh apricots consumed within the state are not available; see page 30.

ing acreage increased only slightly. During the same period production increased somewhat more than bearing acreage, probably because a larger proportion of the trees were in full bearing at the end of the period than at the beginning. Since 1918 bearing acreage has increased rapidly, but this increase has not as yet resulted in a corresponding increase in production. The 1914-1918 average yield

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION AND BEARING ACREAGE OF APRICOTS,  
CALIFORNIA, 1909-1926

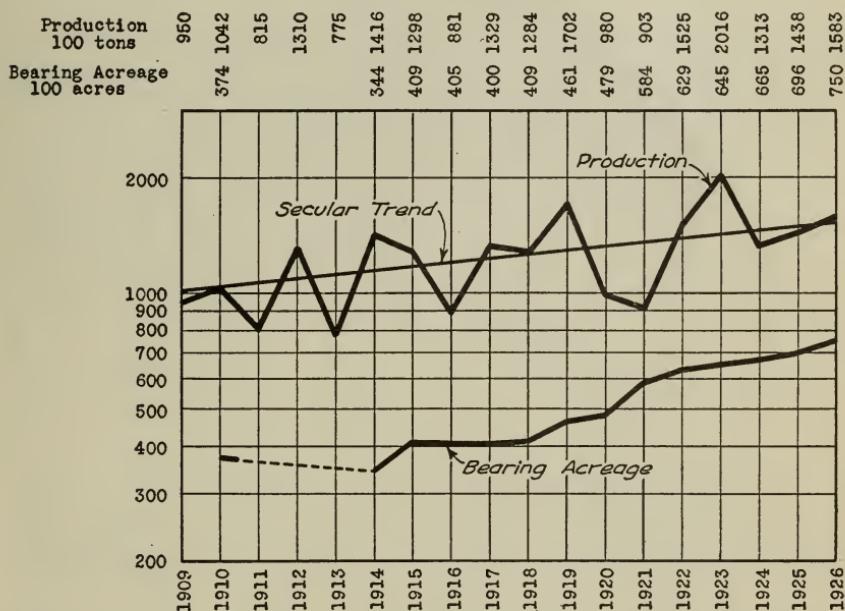


Fig. 10.—The rapid increase in bearing acreage since 1918 has not yet resulted in a corresponding increase in production.

Data on production from table 11. Data on bearing acreage from California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service. Acreage data for 1911-1913 are not available.

per acre, computed by dividing the commercial production by the bearing acreage, was 3.2 tons as compared with the 1922-1926 average yield of 2.3 tons. This decline in yield was caused in the main by two conditions, both of which were a result of the rapid expansion of apricot acreage. They are: (1) a relatively large proportion of the trees listed as bearing in the years from 1922 to 1926 were not yet in full bearing, and (2) the newer plantings were more generally made in sections less favorable to high production. Indications are that the first factor mentioned has been the dominant influence in the failure of production to keep pace with the rapid expansion in bearing

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF DRIED, CANNED, AND FRESH APRICOTS, CALIFORNIA,  
1909-1926 (EQUIVALENT FRESH TONS)

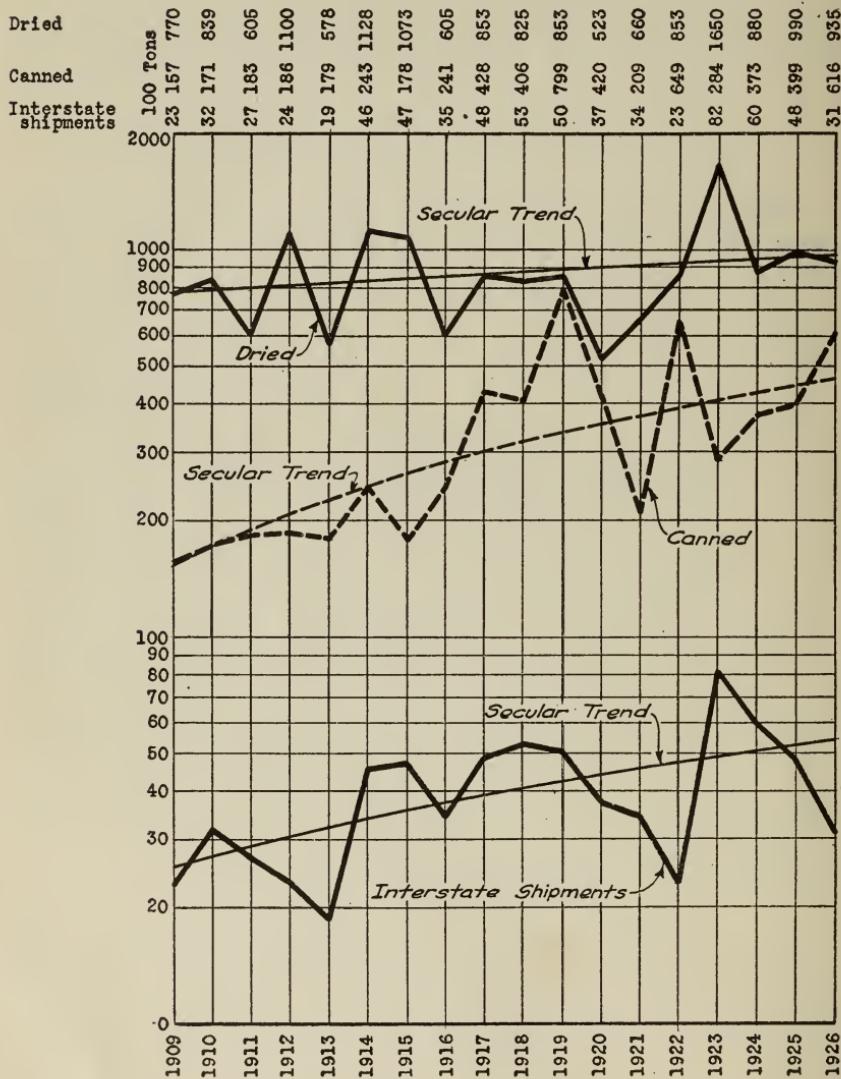


Fig. 11.—The output of canned apricots has increased faster than the output of dried apricots or than the interstate shipments of fresh apricots.

Data from table 11.

acreage. The full effects of the earlier increase in bearing acreage would normally have been felt during the past few years. However, their influence upon production was largely offset by the sub-normal climatic conditions of the past three years. If the present acreage comes into full bearing and if favorable climatic conditions prevail during the next few years, there will undoubtedly be a substantial increase in production.

Figure 11 shows the relative changes in the production of dried and canned apricots and fresh interstate shipments from 1909 to 1926. The lines of secular trend indicate that the normal output of canned apricots has increased over seven times as rapidly as the normal output of dried apricots and almost twice as rapidly as the normal interstate shipments of fresh apricots. Canned apricots have also experienced wider fluctuations in output from year to year than have dried apricots or fresh interstate shipments. The average fluctuation in the outputs of these three kinds of apricots has been as follows: canned, 42 per cent; dried, 28 per cent; and fresh interstate shipments, 30 per cent.

PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA'S COMMERCIAL APRICOT PRODUCTION DRIED, CANNED,  
AND SHIPPED FRESH, AVERAGE 1909-1913 AND 1922-1926

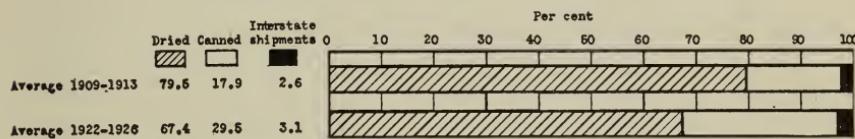


Fig. 12.—During the past five years dried apricots have been relatively less important, while canned apricots and interstate shipments of fresh apricots have been relatively more important, than during the five-year period from 1909 to 1913.

Data from table 11.

*Utilization of the California Apricot Crop.*—The bulk of the apricot crop in California is used for drying and canning. The five-year average commercial production, 1922-1926, was 157,474 tons, of which 67.4 per cent was dried, 29.5 per cent canned, and 3.1 per cent shipped fresh to eastern markets. In figure 12 it will be noted that important changes have taken place in the utilization of the crop. During the past five years dried apricots have been relatively less important, while canning apricots and interstate shipments of fresh apricots have been relatively more important than during the five-year period from 1909 to 1913.

## DRIED APRICOTS

The position of apricots in the dried fruit industry in California is shown in table 2. The normal output of dried apricots is larger than the normal output of dried figs, apples, or pears, but is much smaller than the normal output of raisins or prunes and is slightly smaller than the normal output of dried peaches. Although the tonnage of dried apricots increased 17.8 per cent from 1910–1914 to 1921–1925, its relative position in the dried-fruit industry declined from 7.9 per cent of the total dried-fruit output in 1910–1914 to 4.5 per cent in 1921–1925. Dried apricots were responsible for only 1.3 per cent of the total increase of 209,275 tons in the dried fruit output in California between 1910–1914 and 1921–1925, while raisins and prunes were responsible for 68.2 per cent and 27 per cent respectively.

TABLE 2  
CALIFORNIA'S DRIED-FRUIT OUTPUT, AVERAGE 1910–1914 AND 1921–1925

	Average 1910–1914		Average 1921–1925		Change from 1910–1914 to 1921–1925		Percentage increase or decrease from 1910–1914 to 1921–1925
	Tons	Per cent	Tons	Per cent	Tons	Per cent of total change	
Raisins.....	75,900	38.6	218,400	53.8	+142,500	+68.2	+187.7
Prunes.....	68,300	34.8	124,800	30.8	+ 56,500	+27.0	+ 82.7
Peaches.....	25,800	13.1	23,140	5.7	- 2,660	- 1.3	- 10.3
Apricots.....	15,450	7.9	18,200	4.5	+ 2,750	+ 1.3	+ 17.8
Figs.....	5,155	2.6	9,620	2.4	+ 4,465	+ 2.1	+ 86.6
Apples.....	3,300	1.7	8,550	2.1	+ 5,250	+ 2.5	+159.1
Pears.....	2,500	1.3	2,970	0.7	+ 470	+ 0.2	+ 18.8
Total.....	196,405	100.0	405,680	100.0	+209,275	100.0	+106.6

Sources of data: Compiled from the California Fruit News except as follows: Raisins, from S. W. Shear and H. F. Gould, Economic Status of the Grape Industry, California Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. (in press). Prune average 1921–1925, from California Crop Report, 1925, pp. 26–27.

*Production of Dried Apricots.*—Dried apricots are produced only in California. Figure 13 shows the production by years from 1909 to 1926. The normal increase in production during this period, as illustrated by the line of trend, amounted to 3,770 tons, or 27 per cent. The lowest production during this entire 18-year period occurred in 1920 when the tonnage was 42 per cent below normal; and the largest production occurred in 1923 when the tonnage was 75 per cent above normal. The average variation from the normal production amounted to approximately 28 per cent.

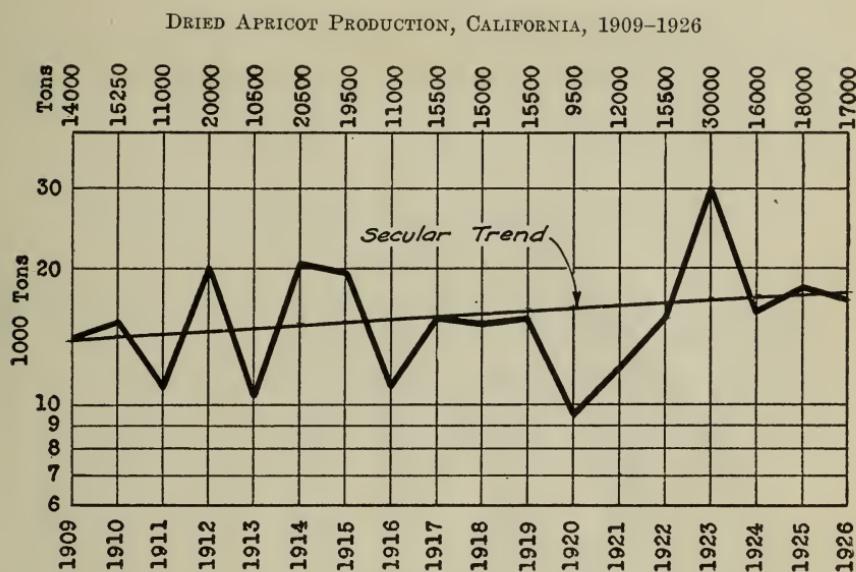


Fig. 13.—The normal increase in the production of dried apricots during the past seventeen years has amounted to 27 per cent.

Data from table 11.

*Exports of Dried Apricots.*—There has been no general upward or downward trend in the exports of dried apricots during the past seventeen years (fig. 14). The average 1909-1913 exports amounted to 9,719 tons as compared to the average 1921-1925 exports of 9,813 tons, an increase of less than 100 tons or 1 per cent. The outstanding fact illustrated in figure 14 is the wide variation in exports from year to year, the average variation for this seventeen-year period being 48 per cent. Part of this variation has been caused by fluctuations in domestic production (see figure 13), but a larger part seems to have been caused by changing demand conditions in the foreign markets, since the percentage of the crop exported likewise shows considerable variation (fig. 15).

Although the average exports during the past five years have equaled in amount the pre-war five-year average, the percentage of the crop exported has declined (fig. 15). From 1909 to 1913 an average of 68 per cent of the production was exported as compared to an average of 53 per cent from 1921 to 1925. Prior to the war the general tendency was toward increasing exports, both in absolute amount and in percentage of the crop. During the war exports

decreased absolutely and relatively, reaching a low point in 1917–1918, when only 2,615 tons—17 per cent of the 1917 crop—were exported. Immediately after the war, exports were larger than the pre-war average. Since 1919 there has been some decline in the percentage of the crop exported, although the actual tonnage exported has tended to increase.

UNITED STATES' EXPORTS OF DRIED APRICOTS, 1909–1925

(Crop year beginning July 1)

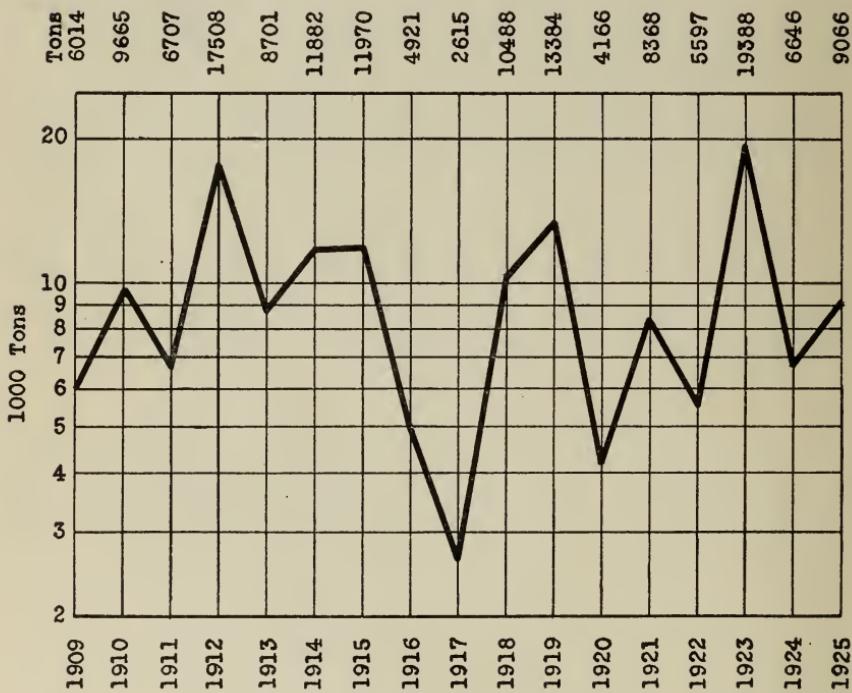


Fig. 14.—The average exports of dried apricots during the past five years are equal to, but no greater than, the average pre-war exports. The outstanding fact is the wide variation in exports from year to year.

Data from U. S. Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce, June issue.

*Main Foreign Markets for Dried Apricots.*—The volume of dried apricots exported from the United States to the various foreign countries is shown in table 3. Germany was the most important market during the five-year period, 1922–1926, followed by Netherlands and the United Kingdom. From 1910 to 1914, however, the United Kingdom was first in importance, Germany second, and France third. During this earlier period these three countries received

68.7 per cent of our exports as compared to 47.4 per cent during the past five years. On the other hand, our exports to Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Canada increased from 22.3 per cent in 1910-1914 to 43 per cent in 1922-1926.

TABLE 3

UNITED STATES' EXPORTS OF DRIED APRICOTS BY IMPORTING COUNTRIES,  
AVERAGE 1910-1914, AVERAGE 1922-1926, AND 1926  
(YEAR ENDING JUNE 30)

Country	Average 1910-1914		Average 1922-1926		1926	
	Tons	Per cent	Tons	Per cent	Tons	Per cent
Germany.....	2,604	26.8	2,075*	21.2	1,973	21.8
Netherlands.....	1,102	11.3	1,793	18.3	2,032	22.4
United Kingdom.....	2,786	28.7	1,590	16.2	1,327	14.6
France.....	1,279	13.2	976	10.0	466	5.1
Denmark.....	308	3.2	862	8.8	854	9.4
Canada.....	559	5.8	641	6.5	566	6.2
Sweden.....	114	1.2	488	5.0	388	4.3
Belgium.....	478	4.9	475	4.8	560	6.2
Norway.....	82	.8	434	4.4	284	3.1
Others.....	407	4.1	479	4.8	616	6.9
Total.....	9,719	100.0	9,813	100.0	9,066	100.0

\*Four-year average 1923-1926.

Sources of data: Average 1910-1914 compiled from Commerce and Navigation of the United States 1914. Average, 1922-1926, compiled from U. S. Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce, June issues. Data for 1926 for Denmark and Sweden supplied by L. B. Gary, District Manager, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, San Francisco.

*Consumption of Dried Apricots.*—As compared with the population, the consumption of dried apricots in the United States is very small. During the past five years the average per capita consumption amounted to only 0.15 of a pound of dried apricots or the equivalent of 0.8 of a pound of fresh apricots.

*Prices and Purchasing Power of Dried Apricots.*—In order to determine whether the returns from the sale of apricots are high or low as compared to the things the apricot grower must buy, it is necessary to convert money prices to purchasing power. The best index available at present for doing this is the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices given in table 13, column X. The figure obtained by deflating the price of apricots by the corresponding index number indicates the value of apricots in exchange for all commodities at wholesale prices compared with pre-war exchange values.

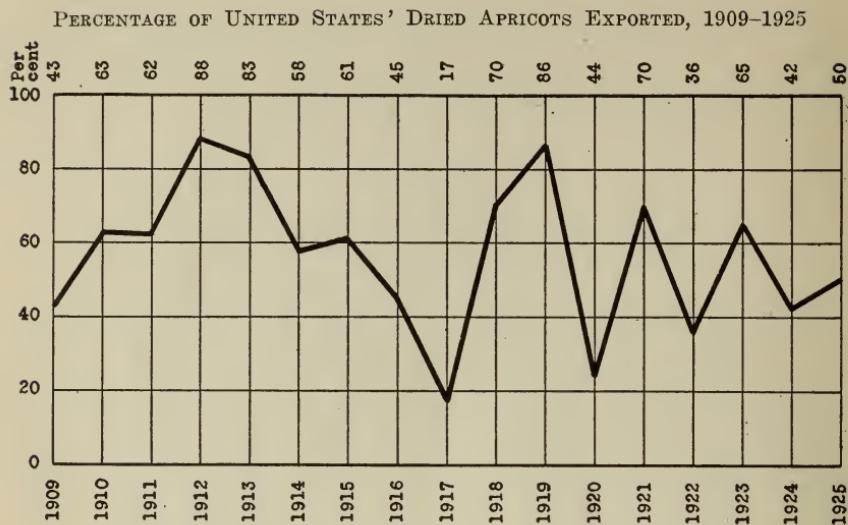


Fig. 15.—The percentage of the apricot crop exported has tended to decline. On an average, 53 per cent of the crop in the past five years has been exported as compared with 68 per cent from 1909 to 1913.

Compiled from data in figures 13 and 14.

#### RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF CALIFORNIA DRIED APRICOTS, F.O.B. GROWERS', SHIPPING POINTS, 1909-1926

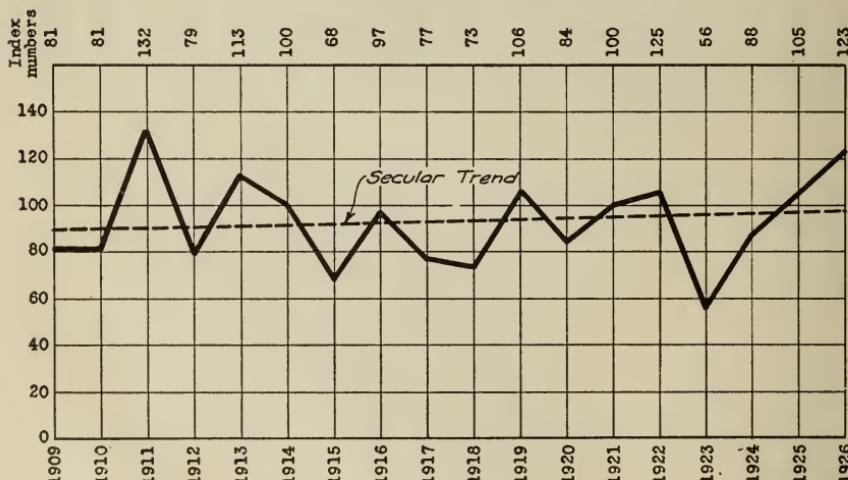


Fig. 16.—The changes in the purchasing power of dried apricots from year to year are similar to the changes in the purchasing power of canning and fresh apricots. Growers are normally able to buy more of other commodities with the money they receive for a ton of apricots today than formerly.

Data from table 13.

Figure 16 shows the relative purchasing power of dried apricots from 1909 to 1926. During this period the purchasing power has tended to increase slowly, as is illustrated by the secular trend, which was 9 per cent higher in 1926 than in 1909. The actual values have fluctuated about the normal trend, being sometimes above, and sometimes below it. The average fluctuation for the eighteen-year-period was 21.6 per cent.

A comparison of figure 16 with figures 18 and 22 shows the close relationship which exists between the prices paid for dried, canning, and fresh apricots. It will be noted that a change in the price of one is generally accompanied by a similar change in the prices of the other two. This is because a large part of the apricot crop has a three-way outlet: it may be dried, canned, or shipped fresh. The proportion of the crop utilized in these three ways depends largely on the prices offered, and the possibility of increasing or decreasing the supply of each brings the prices of them into close adjustment.

#### CANNED APRICOTS

The position of apricots in the canned fruit industry in California is shown in table 4. Although ranking second, the average pack of apricots during the past five years has amounted to only 17.3 per cent of the total canned-fruit pack, while the pack of clingstone peaches has amounted to over one-half of the total. The average 1922-1926 pack of all fruits was 9,391,000 cases larger than the average 1910-1914 pack. Almost 71 per cent of this increase of more than nine million cases is attributable to clingstone peaches as compared with 16 per cent to apricots and 10.7 per cent to pears.

*Production of Canned Apricots.*—Practically all of the canned apricots are produced in California.<sup>7</sup> Figure 17 shows the canned pack in California from 1909 to 1926. In 1926 the normal pack, as based

<sup>7</sup> A small tonnage of apricots is canned in Utah. According to Mr. J. F. Barker, Secretary of the Utah Canners' Association, the Utah packs for the past five years were as follows: 1922, 41,054 cases; 1923, 14,670 cases; 1924, 33,382 cases; 1925, 3,275 cases; and 1926, 70,838 cases. Mr. Barker points out that the bulk of the apricots produced in Utah are consumed fresh and that only the surplus above the fresh market requirements is canned. The future apricot pack in Utah, however, will probably be considerably larger as growers have planted quite a large acreage to apricots during the past few years.

According to the reports of the Northwest Canners' Association there have been no apricots canned in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho since 1922. The available statistics of the earlier packs in these states are as follows: Oregon, 6,815 cases in 1919; Washington, 325 cases in 1919, 1,591 cases in 1920, and 63 cases in 1921; Idaho, 480 cases in 1922.

upon the line of trend, was 1,729,750 cases larger than the normal pack in 1909, an increase of 205 per cent in 17 years. Fluctuations in the pack from year to year have been particularly large, the average fluctuation from 1909 to 1926 being 42 per cent.

The increase in the canned pack in California has been much greater than the increase in the United States' population. The 1910–1914 average per capita production of canned apricots in equivalent of the fresh product amounted to 0.4 of a pound as compared with 0.82 of a pound on the average from 1922 to 1926.

TABLE 4

CALIFORNIA'S CANNED-FRUIT PACK, AVERAGE 1910–1914, AVERAGE 1922–1926,  
AND 1926

Fruit	Average 1910–1914		Average 1922–1926		1926		Change from 1910– 1914 to 1922–1926		Percentage increase or decrease from 1910–1914 to 1922–1926
	1,000 cases*	Per cent	1,000 cases*	Per cent	1,000 cases*	Per cent	1,000 cases*	Per cent of total change	
Peaches, clingstone..	1,903	35.4	8,543	57.9	13,655	65.1	+6,640	+70.7	+348.9
Apricots.....	1,058	19.7	2,554	17.3	3,390	16.2	+1,496	+16.0	+141.4
Pears.....	736	13.7	1,740	11.8	2,044	9.7	+1,004	+10.7	+136.4
Peaches, freestone..	927	17.3	1,033	7.0	817	3.9	+ 106	+ 1.1	+ 11.4
Cherries.....	222	4.1	423	2.9	527	2.5	+ 201	+ 2.1	+ 90.5
Plums.....	139	2.6	169	1.1	229	1.1	+ 30	+ 0.3	+ 21.6
Other fruits.....	384	7.2	298	2.0	313	1.5	- 86	- 0.9	- 22.4
Total.....	5,369	100.0	14,760	100.0	20,975	100.0	+9,391	100.0	+174.9

\* All grades and sizes.

Sources of data: Years 1910–1914, 1925 Annual of the California Packing Corporation. Years 1922–1926, Canners' League of California, Bul. 762-A, Jan. 4, 1927.

Since approximately one-third of the pack is exported, the annual per capita consumption of canned apricots in equivalent of the fresh product amounts to only 0.55 of a pound at the present time.

*Exports of Canned Apricots.*—The average exports of canned apricots during the past three years amounted to 475,157 cases, or 25 per cent of the average pack (table 5). During this period the percentage of the canned-apricot pack going into export trade has decreased; 30 per cent of the 1925 pack was exported as compared with 34 per cent of the 1924 pack and 37 per cent of the 1923 pack. The amount of apricots exported during the crop year of 1925 was 6 per cent smaller than the amount exported during the crop year of 1924, but was 13 per cent larger than during the crop year of 1923.

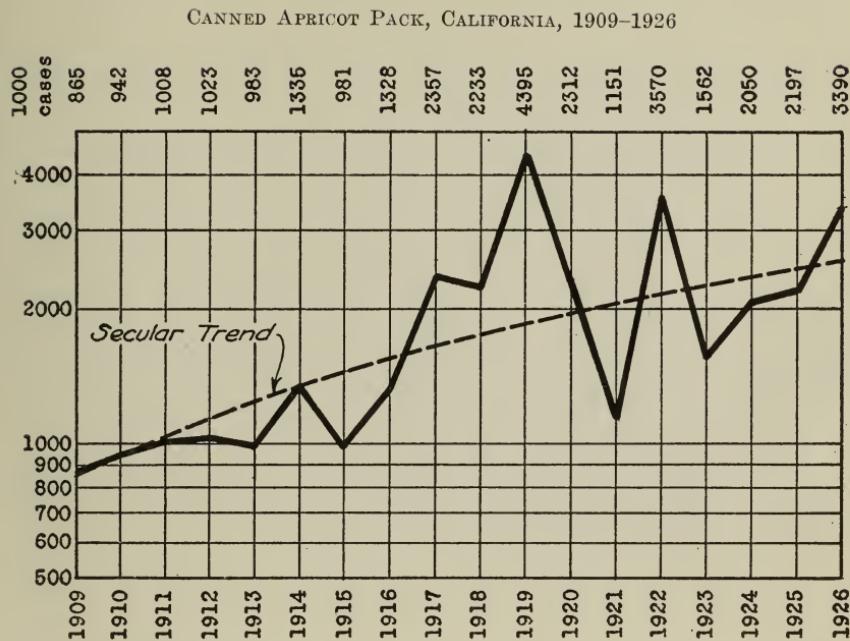


Fig. 17.—The output of canned apricots has increased rapidly.

Data from table 11.

TABLE 5  
UNITED STATES' EXPORTS OF CANNED APRICOTS, 1924-1926

Year ending June 30	Cases	Percentage of U. S. production exported
Average 1924-1926.....	644,100	33
1924.....	578,800	37
1925.....	696,900	34
1926.....	656,600	30

Sources of data: Compiled from U. S. Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce, June issues. Pounds converted to cases on the basis of 45 pounds to the case. Prior to January 1, 1923, exports of canned apricots were not listed separately.

TABLE 6

UNITED STATES' EXPORTS OF CANNED APRICOTS BY IMPORTING COUNTRIES,  
1923-1925

Country	Average 1923-1925		1923		1924		1925	
	Cases	Per cent	Cases	Per cent	Cases	Per cent	Cases	Per cent
United Kingdom.....	602,200	84.3	478,300	83.5	699,600	84.6	628,700	84.7
Canada.....	21,900	3.1	20,800	3.6	20,000	2.4	25,000	3.4
France.....	19,700	2.8	14,900	2.6	17,500	2.1	26,800	3.6
Belgium.....	11,400	1.6	6,000	1.1	18,300	2.2	9,900	1.3
Netherlands.....	9,100	1.3	6,100	1.1	14,800	1.8	6,300	.8
Other countries.....	49,600	6.9	46,600	8.1	56,500	6.9	45,600	6.2
Total.....	713,900	100.0	572,700	100.0	826,700	100.0	742,300	100.0

Sources of data: Commerce and Navigation of the United States. Pounds converted to cases on the basis of 45 pounds to the case.

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF CALIFORNIA CANNING APRICOTS, F.O.B. GROWERS',  
SHIPPING POINTS, 1909-1926

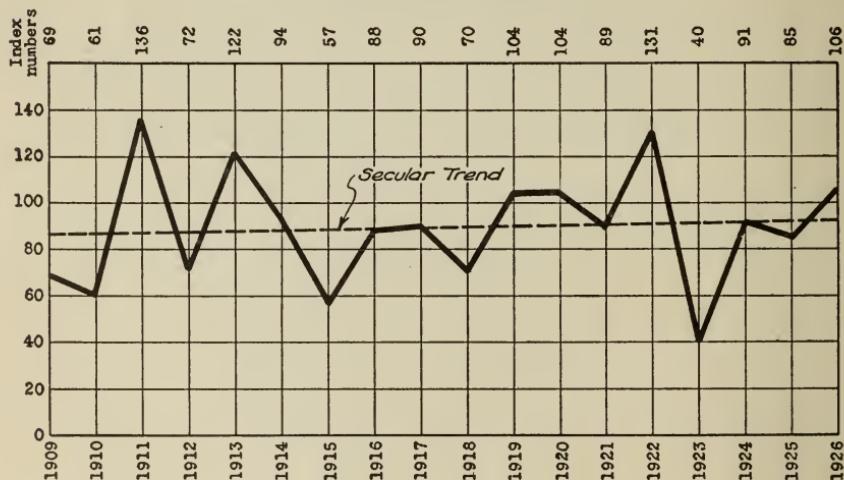


Fig. 18.—Despite the rapid increase in the output of canned apricots, the relative purchasing power has tended to increase slightly.

Data from table 13.

*Main Foreign Markets for Canned Apricots.*—The United Kingdom is our principal foreign market for canned apricots. During the past three years approximately 84 per cent of the exports have gone to that country (table 6). Canada has generally been our next most important market, followed by France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The amount of canned apricots imported by the various countries from the United States varies from year to year as shown in table 6. In 1925 exports to the United Kingdom, Canada, and France were larger than the three-year average exports, while exports to Belgium and the Netherlands were smaller.

*Purchasing Power of Canning Apricots.*—The trend of purchasing power of canning apricots, f.o.b. growers' shipping points, shows a small increase during the eighteen-year period (fig. 18). In 1926 the line of trend was 7.3 per cent higher than in 1909. This small increase in purchasing power during the period when the output of canned apricots tripled indicates how rapidly the demand for canned apricots has increased. People in the United States are not only eating at least twice as many canned apricots as they did before the war, but they are paying more per can for them now than they did then.

INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS OF FRESH APRICOTS, CALIFORNIA, 1909-1926

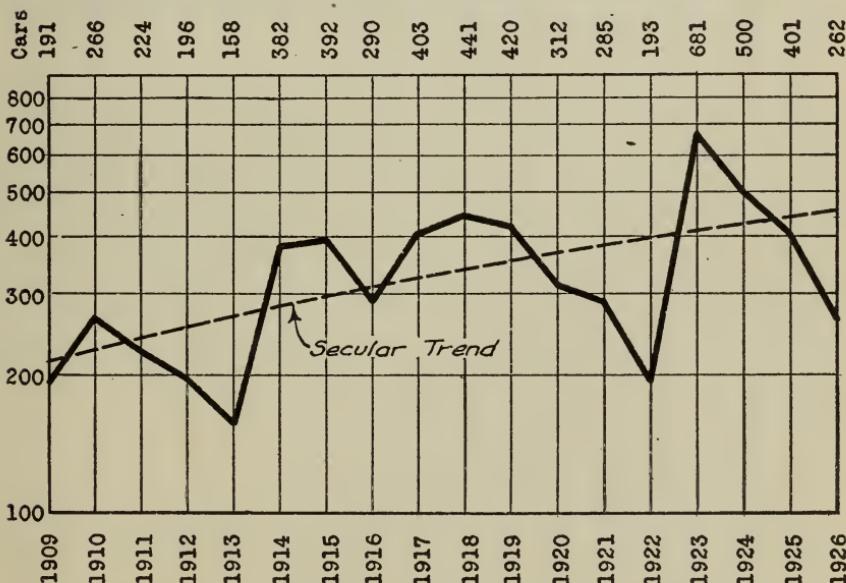


Fig. 19.—The interstate shipments of fresh apricots have tended to increase less rapidly than canned apricots but more rapidly than dried apricots.

Data from table 11. Shipments for years 1909-1910 corrected to 26,000 lbs. minimum.

### FRESH APRICOTS

*California's Interstate Fresh-Apricot Shipments.*—California's interstate shipments of fresh apricots from 1909 to 1926 are shown in figure 19. During this period the secular trend of shipments increased 113 per cent. The normal increase per year, as based upon the line of trend, has amounted to 14.2 cars. The actual shipments show considerable variation from the long-time trend; the average variation for the eighteen-year period being approximately 30 per cent. Declining shipments extending through three or more years have occurred three times in the past eighteen years: 1911–1913, 1918–1922, and 1924–1926. The recovery from the two earlier periods of declining shipments was very rapid.

*Seasonal Variation in California's Interstate Shipments of Fresh Apricots.*—The shipping season for fresh apricots normally extends for eight weeks, from the middle of May to the middle of July.<sup>8</sup> The bulk of the apricots, however, are shipped during the third and fourth weeks (fig. 20). During the past three years an average of 65.6 per cent has been shipped during this period. The tendency during the past three years has been to ship a relatively larger amount during these two weeks; in 1924, 51.2 per cent were shipped; in 1925, 66.4 per cent; and in 1926, 79.4 per cent.

*Local Consumption of Fresh Apricots Is Large.*—Accurate figures on the amount of fresh apricots consumed within the state are not available, but the volume is undoubtedly large. According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the carlot unloads of apricots in San Francisco and Los Angeles in 1926 were 195 and 93 respectively.<sup>9</sup> These carlot unloads, particularly in Los Angeles, were augmented by heavy truck receipts. A conservative estimate is that four times as many apricots were received in Los Angeles in 1926 by truck as by rail. These figures indicate that a larger proportion of the fresh apricots are consumed within the state than are shipped to eastern markets.

<sup>8</sup> The season may be a week or ten days earlier or later than this. In 1925, for example, the season was ten days earlier.

<sup>9</sup> Carl J. Hansen of the San Francisco office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that not more than 10 per cent of the 1926 carlot unloads of apricots in San Francisco were sent to the canneries; and Homer A. Harris of the Los Angeles office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates that none of the 1926 carlot unloads of apricots in Los Angeles were sent to the canneries.

PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA'S INTERSTATE FRESH-APRICOT SHIPMENTS SHIPPED BY WEEKS, AVERAGE 1924-1926

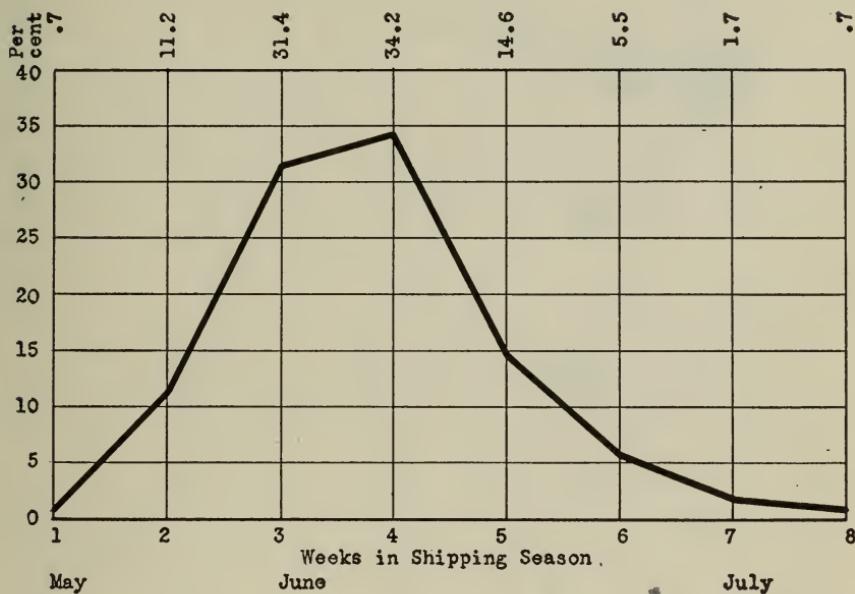


Fig. 20.—The shipping season for fresh apricots is relatively short.

Data from table 12.

*California Fresh Apricots Are Not Widely Distributed.*—Figure 21 shows the relative distribution of the interstate shipments of fresh apricots from northern California<sup>10</sup> in 1926. It will be noted that the bulk of the apricots are sold in a comparatively few states. In 1926 approximately 77 per cent of interstate shipments from northern California were sold in the four states of New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and 40 per cent in New York alone. This limited distribution is largely a result of the extreme perishability of fresh apricots. The necessity for handling them quickly makes it desirable to sell them in the few large auction markets rather than in the many smaller private-sale markets. The experience of large marketing organizations has been that the large markets pay more for fresh apricots than the small markets.

<sup>10</sup> Figures on the distribution of the interstate shipments of apricots from central California are not available. In general, however, the distribution is much the same as that from northern California. Interstate shipments from southern California amount to only two or three cars a year.

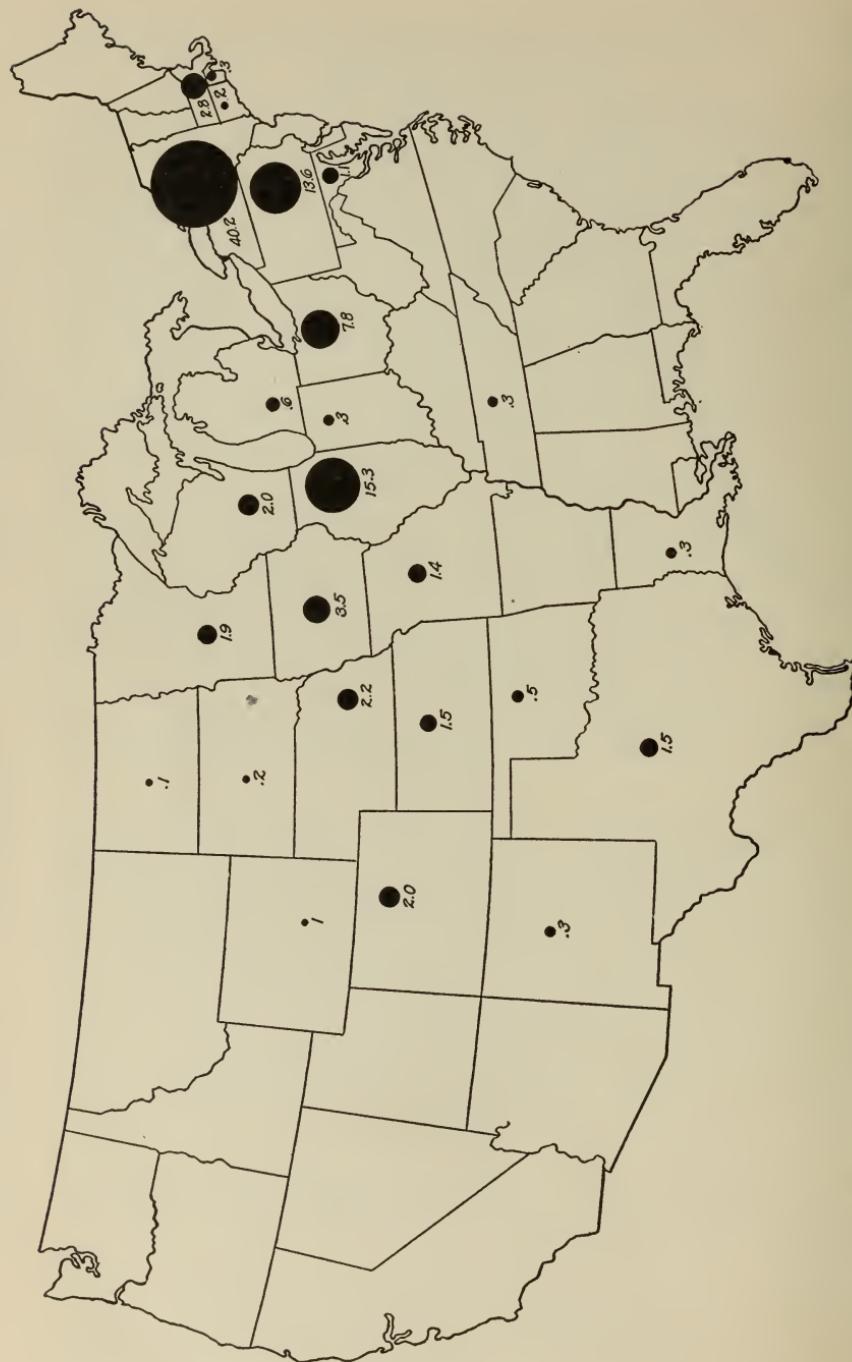


Fig. 21.—The bulk of the interstate shipments of fresh apricots from northern California are sold in the four states of New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Figures in states represent receipts expressed as a percentage of the total shipments.

*Washington Is Becoming a More Important Apricot-Producing State.*—There has been a considerable increase in the planting of apricots in Washington during recent years. In 1926, the total apricot acreage in that state amounted to 2,760 acres<sup>11</sup> as compared with 756 acres in 1920. Since a considerable proportion of this acreage is not yet in bearing, there will probably be a substantial increase in production during the next few years.

Washington's production, however, is small as compared with that of California. In 1926 Washington's total production amounted to only 2,400 tons, while the commercial production in California amounted to approximately 158,300 tons.

TABLE 7

CARLOT SHIPMENTS AND UNLOADS OF CALIFORNIA APRICOTS AND CERTAIN COMPETING FRUITS

	Carlot shipments U. S.		Carlot unloads during June, 1926		
	May 16-June 12, 1926	May 31-June 27, 1925	New York City	San Francisco	Los Angeles
	248*	368*	95	140	58
Apricots.....	248*	368*	95	140	58
Apples.....	1,668	845	542	19	124
Cantaloupes.....	7,475	9,208	1,694	169	298
Cherries.....	1,152†	974†	339	30	47
Deciduous fruit (mixed).....	545‡	955‡	315‡	.....	93
Oranges.....	4,638	3,249	988	95	1
Peaches.....	449	4,251	567	40	83
Plums and prunes.....	1,169	1,245	.....	23	76
Strawberries.....	7,751	1,086	739	.....	.....
Watermelons.....	2,005	10,430	457	113	1,120
Total.....	27,100	32,611	5,736	629	1,900

\* California interstate shipments. † Includes cannery stock. ‡ Includes some apricots.

Sources of data: Carlot shipments of melons and fruits other than apricots from issues of Crops and Markets, 1926. Carlot shipments of apricots from the California Fruit News. Carlot unloads from mimeographed reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, issued by the New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles offices.

Although all of Washington's apricots are marketed fresh, they do not compete seriously with the fresh apricots shipped from California. The shipping season in California is generally over before the beginning of the shipping season in Washington. Furthermore, most of the apricots from Washington are marketed in the northwestern states, while most of California's apricots are marketed in the eastern states.

<sup>11</sup> Seventh Biennial Report of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, p. 45.

*Heavy Shipments of Certain Fresh Fruits Compete with California's Fresh Apricots.*—California's fresh apricots meet with intense competition from the shipments of certain fresh fruits in the United States; although the peaks of shipments of these products generally come at different times than the peak of California's apricot shipments. Approximately 95 per cent of 262 cars of apricots shipped from California in 1926 moved between May 16 and June 12. During this same period nearly 27,000 cars of other fresh fruits which compete more or less directly with apricots were shipped from points in the United States (table 7). The most intense competition in 1926 came from cantaloupes and strawberries. In 1925 the competition from strawberries was considerably less, but the competition from peaches and watermelons was much greater.

*Purchasing Power of Fresh Apricots.*—The demand for fresh apricots has increased substantially during the past eighteen years. Despite a normal increase of 113 per cent in interstate shipments from California, the trend of purchasing power was 29 per cent higher in 1926 than in 1909 (fig. 22). A comparison of figure 22 with figure 19, page 29, indicates that the variations in purchasing power from year to year are caused in the main by variations in shipments. Large shipments are generally, although not always, accompanied by low purchasing power, and vice versa.

RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF CALIFORNIA ROYAL APRICOTS, F.O.B. GROWERS' SHIPPING POINTS, 1909-1926

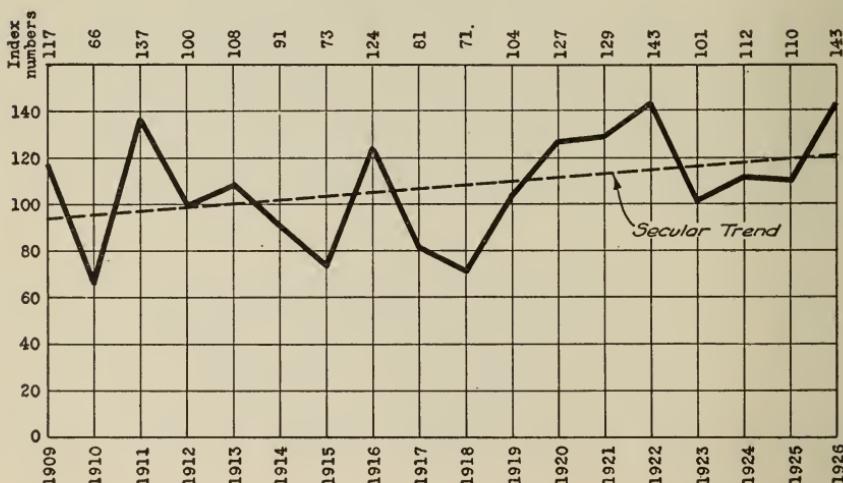


Fig. 22.—The demand for fresh apricots has increased even faster than production.  
Data from table 13.

## APPENDIX I

## FOREIGN APRICOT SITUATION

The available information indicates that the countries of Australia, Union of South Africa, Syria, and Persia are the only ones, besides the United States, that produce apricots to any considerable extent. Available data regarding the situation in these countries are very fragmentary. The following information, though far from complete, gives some indication of the situation.

*Australia.*—The available production figures of dried apricots in Australia<sup>12</sup> are as follows:

Year	Tons
1920–21 .....	643
1921–22 .....	486
1922–23 .....	1051
1923–24 .....	585

Figures for the last two years are not available.

Exports of dried apricots from Australia amounted to 450 tons in 1922–23 and 34 tons in 1923–24. The United Kingdom received 90 per cent of the exports in 1922–23 and 75 per cent in 1923–24.<sup>13</sup>

The Australian canned-apricot pack for the years from 1922–23 to 1925–26<sup>14</sup> is given below:

Year	Dozen Tins
1922–23 .....	245,244
1923–24 .....	281,194
1924–25 .....	413,150
1925–26 .....	271,350

<sup>12</sup> U. S. D. A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Foreign Crops and Markets, 13: 761. 1926.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from R. S. Hollingshead, Foodstuffs Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

<sup>14</sup> U. S. Dept. Commerce, Foodstuffs 'Round the World—Canned and Dried Fruits, Feb. 11, 1927, p. 1.

*Union of South Africa.*—In 1925 there were 2,169,340 apricot trees in the Union of South Africa, of which 1,145,280 were in bearing and 1,024,060 were not in bearing.<sup>15</sup> The high ratio of non-bearing to bearing trees indicates that there will be a substantial increase in production during the next few years.

Production of dried apricots in the Union of South Africa for the years from 1920–21 to 1923–24<sup>16</sup> are given below:

Year	Tons
1920–21 .....	80
1921–22 .....	490
1922–23 .....	572
1923–24 .....	370

Data for the last two years are not available.

Exports of dried apricots from the Union of South Africa mounted to 294 tons in 1924, 359 tons in 1925, and 390 tons in the first five months of 1926. Newfoundland and the United Kingdom are the main destinations of exports.<sup>17</sup>

*Syria.*—According to R. S. Hollingshead,<sup>17</sup> the best available statistics show that Syria produces about 17,000 tons of fresh apricots a year, of which 600 to 750 tons are dried and 5,000 to 7,500 tons are used in making apricot paste. Exports of dried apricots from Syria were as follows: 1921, 283 tons; 1922, 1241 tons; and 1923, 651 tons. About 75 per cent of these exports go to Egypt and consequently do not compete with California apricots to any considerable extent.

*Persia.*—The estimated production of dried apricots in Persia in 1925 was 3000 tons.<sup>18</sup> The exports from Persia for the year ending March 20, 1925, amounted to 1941 tons, of which 1815 tons were exported to Russia. Practically none of the Persian apricots are consumed in the more important California foreign markets.

<sup>15</sup> Stevenson, P. J., Report of the 1925 Census of South Africa's Fruit Trees (mimeo.), Johannesburg, South Africa.

<sup>16</sup> U. S. D. A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Foreign Crops and Markets, 13: 761. 1926.

<sup>17</sup> Letter from R. S. Hollingshead, Foodstuffs Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

<sup>18</sup> U. S. D. A., Bureau of Agricultural Economics, The Dried Fruit Industry in Persia (mimeo.), April 22, 1926.

*Foreign Tariffs.*—The rates of import duty levied by the foreign countries which are important markets for United States apricots are given in table 8.

TABLE 8  
APPROXIMATE IMPORT DUTIES ON UNITED STATES APRICOTS IN  
CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, 1926

Country	Dried	Canned
Belgium.....	3.3 cents per pound	7½ cents per pound
Canada.....	25 per cent ad valorem	2½ cents per pound
Denmark.....	½ cent per pound	6.1 cents per pound
France.....	.1853 cent per pound	2.7 cents per pound
Germany.....	1.08 cent per pound	16 cents per pound
Netherlands.....	8 per cent ad valorem	8 per cent ad valorem
Norway.....	7 cents per pound	10.7 cents per pound
Sweden.....	6.1 cents per pound	4.8 cents per pound
United Kingdom.....	\$1.70 per 100 pounds	\$2.84 per 100 pounds*

\* Or the importer may elect to pay duty based upon the quantity and quality of the sugar contained in the apricots.

Data compiled from records furnished by L. B. Gary, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, San Francisco.

The preferential treatment accorded apricots from Australia and the Union of South Africa by Canada and the United Kingdom is given in table 9.

TABLE 9  
PREFERENTIAL DUTIES PAID BY AUSTRALIA AND THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA,  
COMPARED WITH DUTIES PAID BY THE UNITED STATES ON APRICOTS  
IMPORTED INTO CANADA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1926

Importing country	Exporting country		
	Australia	Union of South Africa	United States
Canada:			
Dried.....	10 per cent ad valorem	17½ per cent ad valorem	25 per cent ad valorem
Canned.....	½ cent per pound	1¾ cents per pound	2½ cents per pound
United Kingdom:			
Dried.....	Free	Free	\$1.70 per 100 pounds
Canned.....	\$1.79 per 100 pounds	\$1.79 per 100 pounds	\$2.84 per 100 pounds

Data compiled from records furnished by L. B. Gary, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, San Francisco.

## APPENDIX II

## TABLES

TABLE 10

APRICOT ACREAGE, CALIFORNIA BY COUNTIES, BEARING ACREAGE, 1921-1927,  
AND NON-BEARING ACREAGE, 1927

County	Bearing acreage							Non-bearing acreage 1927*
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	
Coast District.....	22,267	23,926	24,255	25,087	26,400	28,890	30,049	5,484
Alameda.....	3,600	3,995	3,995	3,995	3,749	3,502	3,255	271
Contra Costa.....	400	450	500	550	600	800	1,081	1,217
Lake.....	31	34	35	36	39	42	45	30
Marin.....	25	35	42	50	55	50	65	3
Monterey.....	1,500	1,976	1,800	1,600	1,400	1,280	1,480	300
Napa.....	30	30	30	30	30	30	50	150
San Benito.....	2,000	2,644	2,800	3,500	4,000	4,533	4,795	498
San Luis Obispo.....	540	598	664	710	824	719	625	344
San Mateo.....	54	67	75	83	103	139	209	62
Santa Clara.....	12,297	12,297	12,514	12,733	13,700	15,840	16,409	2,439
Santa Cruz.....	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,850	1,900	1,975	150
Sonoma.....	40	50	50	50	50	55	60	20
Sacramento Valley.....	5,478	6,409	6,492	6,527	6,704	7,077	7,947	2,843
Butte.....	36	36	36	36	45	112	125	.....
Colusa.....	40	250	250	250	250	242	354	500
Glenn.....	110	112	138	173	183	216	449	911
Sacramento.....	200	200	225	250	270	300	350	425
Solano.....	3,420	3,476	3,476	3,476	3,506	3,541	3,576	420
Sutter.....	39	100	87	75	85	93	101	65
Tehama.....	242	260	272	285	385	493	512	137
Yolo.....	1,251	1,800	1,833	1,807	1,900	2,000	2,400	194
Yuba.....	140	175	175	175	80	80	80	191
San Joaquin Valley.....	10,118	11,192	11,944	12,609	13,889	16,022	19,743	4,280
Fresno.....	2,750	2,850	2,850	2,850	2,736	2,622	2,508	157
Kern.....	598	598	646	695	700	712	1,315	600
Kings.....	2,500	2,750	2,875	2,912	2,950	3,250	3,000	403
Madera.....	224	404	464	525	600	633	865	1,009
Merced.....	330	330	484	638	769	1,136	2,104	487
San Joaquin.....	772	850	876	901	996	1,046	1,131	172
Stanislaus.....	1,443	1,682	1,886	2,090	2,645	4,130	4,944	1,165
Tulare.....	1,501	1,728	1,863	1,998	2,493	2,493	3,876	287
Southern California.....	20,320	21,123	21,554	22,006	22,345	22,711	22,636	5,309
Imperial.....				21	21	34	78	2
Los Angeles.....	4,840	4,992	4,992	4,992	4,662	4,231	4,217	658
Orange.....	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	3
Riverside.....	5,184	5,668	5,808	5,949	5,950	5,995	5,857	1,661
San Bernardino.....	2,269	2,470	2,505	2,539	2,519	2,519	2,517	49
San Diego.....	599	620	620	620	671	706	690	182
Santa Barbara.....	185	215	227	240	290	290	290	200
Ventura.....	7,162	7,077	7,321	7,564	8,151	8,855	8,906	2,554
Other Counties.....	186	225	248	271	292	332	349	41
Total.....	58,369	62,875	64,493	66,500	69,630	75,032	80,724	17,957

\* 1926 plantings of 1,915 acres not included.

Sources of data: Revised figures compiled by N. I. Nielsen, California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service.

TABLE 11  
COMMERCIAL APRICOT PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA, 1906-1926

Year	Dried		Canned		Interstate shipments†		Total equivalent fresh tons	Percentage of total commercial production		
	Dry tons	Equivalent fresh tons	Cases	Equivalent fresh tons	Cars	Equivalent fresh tons		Dried	Canned	Inter-state shipments
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI		VIII	IX	X
1906.....	3,000	16,500	516,550	9,392	16	176	26,068	63.3	36.0	.7
1907.....	1,100	6,050	444,075	8,074	71	781	14,905	40.6	54.2	5.2
1908.....	19,000	104,500	1,412,550	25,683	232	2,552	132,735	78.7	19.3	2.0
1909.....	14,000	77,000	865,010	15,727	208	2,288	95,015	81.0	16.6	2.4
1910.....	15,250	83,875	941,790	17,123	290	3,190	104,188	80.5	16.4	3.1
1911.....	11,000	60,500	1,008,150	18,330	224	2,688	81,518	74.2	22.5	3.3
1912.....	20,000	110,000	1,023,235	18,604	196	2,352	130,956	84.0	14.2	1.8
1913.....	10,500	57,750	982,790	17,869	158	1,896	77,515	74.5	23.0	2.5
1914.....	20,500	112,750	1,335,235	24,277	382	4,584	141,611	79.6	17.2	3.2
1915.....	19,500	107,250	981,190	17,840	392	4,704	129,794	82.7	13.7	3.6
1916.....	11,000	60,500	1,327,770	24,141	290	3,480	88,121	68.6	27.4	4.0
1917.....	15,500	85,250	2,356,553	42,846	403	4,836	132,932	64.2	32.2	3.6
1918.....	15,000	82,500	2,233,314	40,606	441	5,292	128,398	64.3	31.6	4.1
1919.....	15,500	85,250	4,395,204	79,913	420	5,040	170,203	50.0	47.0	3.0
1920.....	9,500	52,250	2,312,020	42,037	312	3,744	98,031	53.3	42.9	3.8
1921.....	12,000	66,000	1,150,514	20,918	285	3,420	90,338	73.0	23.2	3.8
1922.....	15,500	85,250	3,569,918	64,908	193	2,316	152,474	55.9	42.6	1.5
1923.....	30,000	165,000	1,562,298	28,405	681	8,172	201,577	81.8	14.1	4.1
1924.....	16,000	88,000	2,050,405	37,280	500	6,000	131,280	67.0	28.4	4.6
1925.....	18,000	99,000	2,196,680	39,940	401	4,812	143,752	68.9	27.8	3.3
1926.....	17,000*	93,500	3,390,418	61,644	262	3,144	158,288	59.1	38.9	2.0

\* Figure on dried production for 1926 subject to revision.

† Includes only interstate shipments north of the Tehachapi Pass.

#### Sources of data:

Cols. I and V, California Fruit News, annual statistical numbers.

Col. II, Conversion factor, 1 ton dried = 5.5 tons fresh.

Col. III, Years 1906-1910 compiled from the California Fruit Grower, annual statistical numbers. Figures corrected by figuring all cases of No. 10 tins on basis of 6 cans per case. Years 1911-1925, California Packing Corporation, Calpak Annual, 1926, p. 6. Data given in this publication for the years 1911-1917 compiled from records furnished by H. C. Rowley, of the California Fruit News, and data for years 1918-1925 compiled from records furnished by the Canners' League of California. Year 1926, Canners' League of California, Bul. 762-A, January 4, 1927.

Col. IV, Conversion factor, 55 cases canned = 1 ton fresh.

Col. VI, Conversion factor, years 1906-1910, 1 car = 11 tons; years 1911-1926, 1 car = 12 tons.

TABLE 12

INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS OF FRESH APRICOTS, CALIFORNIA,\* BY WEEKS,  
1924-1926

Month	1924		1925		1926	
	Week ending	Cars	Week ending	Cars	Week ending	Cars
May.....	17	1	16	.....	15	1
	24	7	23	.....	22	20
	31	72	30	1	29	93
June.....	7	134	6	46	5	115
	14	121	13	128	12	20
	21	110	20	138	19	9
	28	42	27	56	26	2
July.....	5	6	4	19	3	2
	12	6	11	12	10	.....
	19	1	18	1	17	.....
Total.....		500		401		262

\* Includes only shipments north of the Tehachapi Pass. Interstate shipments from southern California amount to only a few cars a year.

Sources of data: California Fruit News.

TABLE 13

PRICES AND RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF CALIFORNIA DRIED, CANNING, AND FRESH APRICOTS, F.O.B. GROWERS SHIPPING POINTS, 1909-1926

Year	Dried apricots			Canning apricots			Fresh apricots (Royal)			All commodity index
	Price, cents per pound	Relative price	Relative purchasing power	Price, dollars per ton	Relative price	Relative purchasing power	Price, cents per crate	Relative price	Relative purchasing power	
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
1909	8.00	80	81	29	68	69	77	116	117	99
1910	8.25	83	81	28	63	61	45	68	66	103
1911	12.50	125	132	61	143	136	86	130	137	95
1912	8.00	80	79	31	73	72	67	101	100	101
1913	11.50	115	113	53	124	122	73	110	108	102
1914	10.00	100	100	40	94	94	60	91	91	100
1915	7.00	70	68	25	59	57	50	75	73	103
1916	12.50	125	97	48	113	88	106	160	124	129
1917	13.75	138	77	69	162	90	97	146	81	180
1918	14.50	145	73	59	138	70	93	140	71	198
1919	22.25	223	106	94	218	104	144	218	104	210
1920	19.25	193	84	102	240	104	196	296	127	230
1921	15.00	150	100	57	134	89	128	193	129	150
1922	19.00	190	125	85	200	131	144	218	143	152
1923	8.75	88	56	27	63	40	105	158	101	156
1924	13.25	133	88	59	138	91	113	170	112	152
1925	17.00	170	105	59	138	85	118	178	110	162
1926	19.00	190	123	70	164	106	146	220	143	154

Sources of data:

Col. I, Compiled from prices paid for dried apricots, exclusive of off-grade stock, by large commercial packers and the California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association. There is usually a price differential of at least one cent per pound between dried apricots from the Santa Clara district and those from the San Joaquin Valley and southern California.

Col. IV, Compiled from prices paid for apricots by various canneries. Prices given in this series are representative of the average prices for the state. In general, prices in the Santa Clara district, which includes the counties from Contra Costa south to San Benito, were from 5 to 15 per cent higher and prices in the other producing districts were from 10 to 20 per cent lower than the prices given in this series.

Col. VII, Computed by subtracting selling charges of 7 per cent and transportation charges given in table 14 and 15 from New York and Chicago auction prices which were obtained from the following sources: Years 1909-1916, simple average of daily prices compiled from the California Fruit News; years 1917-1923, weighted average prices compiled from the New York Daily Fruit Reporter and the Chicago Daily Fruit and Vegetable Reporter; years 1924-1926, weighted average prices compiled by the California Fruit Exchange.

Cols. II, V, VIII, Average 1910-1914 = 100.

Cols. III, VI, IX, Relative prices deflated by the all commodity index.

Col. X, Bureau of Labor Statistics Index converted to 1910-1914 base published in The Agricultural Situation.

TABLE 14

FREIGHT RATES ON APRICOTS FROM CALIFORNIA TO CHICAGO AND NEW YORK,  
1909-1926 (VIA OGDEN, UTAH)

	Chicago			New York		
	100 lbs.	Car	Crate	100 lbs.	Car	Crate
1909.....	\$1.15	\$276.00	\$0.299	\$1.45	\$348.00	\$0.377
1910.....	1.15	276.00	0.299	1.40	336.00	0.364
June 8, 1911-Oct. 31, 1917.....	1.15	299.00	0.299	1.15	299.00	0.299
Nov. 1, 1917-June 25, 1918*.....	1.845	307.97	0.308	1.1845	307.97	0.308
June 25, 1918-Aug. 26, 1920*.....	1.4832	385.63	0.386	1.4832	385.63	0.386
Aug. 27, 1920-Dec. 31, 1921*.....	1.9776	514.18	0.514	1.9776	514.18	0.514
1922-1926.....	1.73	449.80	0.45	1.73	449.80	0.45

\* Includes war tax of 3 per cent.

Sources of data: Compiled from freight tariffs. Prior to June 8, 1911, the minimum freight weight was 24,000 pounds; since June 8, 1911, it has been 26,000 pounds. The billing weight of an apricot crate is 26 pounds.

TABLE 15

REFRIGERATION RATES ON APRICOTS FROM WINTERS-VACAVILLE TO CHICAGO  
AND NEW YORK, 1909-1926 (VIA OGDEN, UTAH)

	Chicago		New York	
	Car	Crate	Car	Crate
1909-June 8, 1911.....	\$85.00	\$ .092	\$97.50	\$ .106
Jan. 8, 1911-July 27, 1912.....	85.00	.085	97.50	.098
July 27, 1912-Oct. 31, 1917.....	75.00	.075	87.50	.086
1918-1919*.....	77.25	.077	90.13	.09
1920-1921*.....	92.70	.093	108.15	.108
1922-1926.....	90.00	.09	105.00	.105

\* Includes war tax of 3 per cent.

Sources of data: Compiled from refrigeration tariffs. In figuring the refrigeration rate per crate, the number of crates per car was determined by the minimum freight weight rather than by the minimum refrigeration weight. (See footnote, table 14.)

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| 304. | Drainage on the Farm.  |
| 305. | Liming the Soil.   |
| 306. | A General Purpose Soil Auger and its Use on the Farm.                          |
| 307. | American Foulbrood and its Control.  |
| 308. | Cantaloupe Production in California.   |

The publications listed above may be had by addressing

*College of Agriculture,*

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